

Water Quality Trading allows businesses, municipalities and farms to implement innovative, cost-effective strategies to reduce pollution while meeting or exceeding local water quality standards.



All trades must be:

*T*ransparent

*R*esponsible

*A*ccountable

*D*esirable

*E*nforceable

For More Information

visit <http://www.epa.gov/waterqualitytrading>

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Water

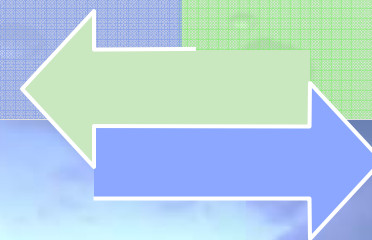
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

EPA document number: 832-F06-015

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Benefits of

Water Quality Trading



Water Quality Trading is a voluntary, cost-effective approach to meeting water quality goals. Permitted sources with higher pollutant control costs may purchase pollutant credits from sources with lower control costs.

Trading Between Point Sources



Trading can occur between point sources (a facility that is permitted under the Clean Water Act such as a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)) or between point sources and nonpoint sources (a source of pollution with no definite point of entry into the water which does not require a permit).

Trades involving nonpoint sources may provide additional environmental benefits:

- reduced erosion,
- flood control
- improved habitat
- restoration of wetlands.
- improved water quality

Trading Between a Point and Nonpoint Source



COST-EFFECTIVE

Everyone Wins When a Watershed Trades

Trading provides benefits to buyers, sellers and to the environment. Trading can also promote the development of more innovative and cost-effective technologies.

VOLUNTARY

Which Pollutants Can Be Traded?

- Total nitrogen
- Total phosphorus
- Sediment
- Other pollutants (on a case-by-case basis)



INNOVATIVE

Where Can Trading Occur?

Water Quality Trading is a local option, possible when all parties share the same watershed. Trading can occur in:

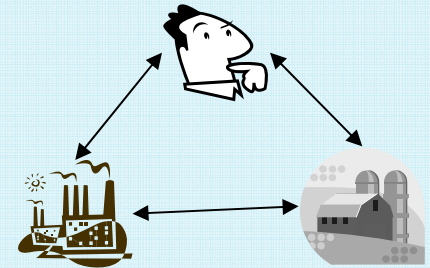
- Unimpaired waters to maintain water quality standards
- Impaired waters to improve water quality

COLLABORATIVE

Who Makes Trading Happen?

Trading requires a *local champion* to bring parties together and to facilitate trades. A local champion can be:

- a party interested in trading,
- a third party broker,
- state permitting authority, or
- anyone interested in improving water quality



Trading is an excellent opportunity to establish new partnerships.

Is Trading Right for Your Watershed?

Refer to the following EPA documents (available at <http://www.epa.gov/waterqualitytrading>) and contact your state environmental agency or EPA regional office to determine if *Water Quality Trading* is a viable option for pollutant reduction in your watershed.

- 2003 EPA Trading Policy
- Water Quality Trading Assessment Handbook
- Water Quality Trading Toolkit for Permit Writers